

Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-6 and 9-41 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 6, 27, 29, and 37 being the independent claims. By the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 6, 9, 27, 29, and 37 are sought to be amended, and claims 7 and 8 are canceled. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1, 7, 10, 13-16, 23-26, 29-30, 32-37, and 38-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tomasz *et al.* Claims 2-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Tomasz in view of Yamawaki *et al.* Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Tomasz in view of Kung. Claims 17-18, 21, and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Tomasz in view of Okanobu. Claims 4-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Tomasz in view of Yamawaki in view of Okanobu. Claims 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Tomasz in view of Okanobu and further in view of Koike. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claims 6, 8-9, 22, and 27-28 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants disagree with one or all of the rejections above, but have made the amendments discussed below to expedite prosecution of this application.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claims 7 and 8, where claim 8 was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 6 and 27 were re-written in independent form as these claims were indicated to be allowable. Claims 29 and 37 were amended to include features similar to that of allowable claim 8.

Accordingly, independent claims 1, 6, 27, 29, and 37 should now be allowable over the cited art. Claims 2-5 and 9-26 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and therefore should also be allowable. Claim 28 depends from claim 27, and therefore should also be allowable. Claims 30-36 depend directly or indirectly from claim 29, and therefore should be allowable. Claims 38-40 depend directly or indirectly from claim 37, and therefore should now be allowable. Claim 41 depends indirectly from claim 15, and therefore should now be allowable.

Based on the discussion above, Applicants request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claims 1-6 and 9-41 be passed to allowance.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Jeffrey T. Helvey
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 44,757

Date: 0/17/05

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

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